TREASURER'S DEPT.

Juneau, Alaska, October 4, 1921.

Rev. John A. Marquis,D.D.,

156 5th Avenue, New York City.

Dear Dr. marquis:

This summer,in conversation with Mr. Lopp, of the Bureau of Education, Smith Building, Seattle, the question of reopening our St. Lawrence Island Mission was discussed.

In this connection, and I may say also in previous conversation, Mr. Lopp raised the point of the ownership of the building now used by the Bureau as a school building and residence for teachers and which was formerly occupied by Mr. Gambell, and Dr. Campbell, each of whom sustained relations to our Board as missionaries.

It had been my understanding that this building was clearly the property of the Woman's Board. I am positive that the Woman's Board has m ade large expenditures in repairing and upkeep of this house. The ground on which it stands can, I suppose, be held by any claimants only by squatter's rights.

Mr. Lopp speaks of the "Reformed Episcopal Church" as having erected the original building and that the Presbyterians came in and occupied after some other organization had initiated the work. On this foundation he intimates that the Presbyterians have no more right to the property than the Bureau of Education. He is not at all aggressive along this line but holds an opinion which seems to be that we have no especial claim on the building.

Under these conditions it seems to me that the matter should be referred to the Woman's Board for investigation and such representation as they wish to make in the premises. In case we should decide to reopen the St. Lawrence mission, which I sincerely hope we may, this question becomes important. I enclose a copy of this letter for reference to Woman's Board if you think it advisable to so do.

Cordially yours, James H. Condit

TREASURER'S DEPT.

October 25th, 1921.

Rev. J. C. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Dr. Condit:

Your letter of the 4th inst. addressed to our Dr. Marquis concerning the St. Lawrence Island mission building has been handed me for reply.

Mr. Lopp is under a misapprehension in his understanding that the Presbyterians have no more right to the buildings on St. Lawrence Island than the General Bureau of Education. Our records show that about May 9th, 1893 we paid the sum of $2000. to the Foreign Missionary Society of the Reformed Episcopal Church, being the amount advanced in May, 1891 by the above Board for the erection and furnishing of certain buildings on St. Lawrence Island. The foregoing is a memo which I have copied from our Property Book.

I remember the circumstances very well and am clear as to my impression that this Board purchased all right and title to the buildings erected by the Reformed Episcopal Church and that sundry minor repairs were made by our missionary who this Board sent to St. Lawrence Island and that such repairs were paid for by this Board.

At this writing I have been unable to investigate the date the above $2000. was paid in order to ascertain whether the amount was paid from the funds of this Board or from funds furnished by the Woman's Department of our Board. This latter question, however, need not affect any decision that may be reached regarding reoccupancy of that Island as a mission point. Regarding this latter proposition I think I can safely say that the Board will be unable to give favorable consideration to your recommendation that this Island be reoccupied for the one and simple reason that our present year's budget willunquestionably be considerably reduced next year and that would mean cutting out any new work, or the reestablishment of an old work that has been discontinued for any length of time.

I am forwarding this reply to your letter on this subject at this time simply for the purpose of enabling you to give Mr. Lopp the facts so that if he has any understanding of the status of the St. Lawrence Island property that does not harmonize with the foregoing he may be informed as, of course, I know that he desires to get at the facts.

Sincerely yours,

VB MG

Treasurer

TREASURER'S DEPT.

October 25th, 1921.

Miss Edna Voss, Supt. of Schools,
The Woman's Board of Home Missions,
Building.

Dear Miss Voss:

Enclosed you will find copy of a letter recently received from Dr. Condit addressed to Dr. Marquis concerning the buildings erected on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.

I find from our Property Book that this Board paid to the Foreign Missionary Board of the Reformed Episcopal Church on May 9th, 1893 the sum of $2,000 being the amount advanced in May 1891 by the above Board for the erection and furnishing of certain buildings on St. Lawrence Island.

I have not attempted as yet to look up our old records in order to ascertain whether the above sum was paid from funds furnished by the then Woman's Department of the Board or from the general funds of this Board.

If you have any records which would throw any light on this matter I would be glad to know what you may learn as in the event that this Board decides to take up work again on St. Lawrence Island we would like to establish the status of the buildings there beyond question.

Yours sincerely,

VB MG Treasurer

Enc.

Woman's Board of Home Missions
of the
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

November 4, 1921.

My dear Mr. Banks:

We have looked up the question concerning the buildings on St. Lawrence Island which were used by our missionaries and find that the school house and home were erected by Dr. Sheldon Jackson from funds furnished him by two members of the Woman's Board. In 1894 land was purchased by these same women from the Episcopalians who had abandoned that station, the amount involved being, I believe, $2000.

It is possible that there is no deed to this property, but the Woman's Board, of course, has a very strong claim on it. Undoubtedly from your old records you will be able to verify this information.

Very sincerely yours,

Edna R. Voss
Superintendent of Field Work.

Mr. Varian Banks,
Building.

G/M

File please HP

Copy

RECEIVED NOV 10 1921 TREASURER'S OFFICE

November 10,1921

Mr. W.T.Lopp,
Bureau of Education,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Mr. Lopp:

In conversation last summer, and also I believe on one other occasion, some question was raised as to the status of title in the St. Lawrence Id. property now being used for school purposes there. As I understood you it was not clear that the Presbyterian Board had acquired title to the buildings but that the same might possibly still be in the Reformed Episcopal Church.

In order that there might be a definite understanding regarding this I wrote to the Board asking for such information as our books in New York could furnish and in response have the followimg from our treasurer, Mr. Varian Banks:-

> "Our records show that on May 9th,1893, we paid the sum of $2,000 to the Foreign Missionary Society of the Reformed Episcopal Church, being the amount advanced in May,1891, by the above Board for the erection and furnishing of certain buildings on St. Lawrence Id."
>
> " I remember the circumstances very well and am clear as to my impression that this Board purchased all right and title to the buildings erected by the Reformed Episcopal Church and that sundry minor repairs were made by our missionary who this Board sent to St. Lawrence Island and that such repairs were paid for by this Board"

This seems to establish the title of our Board to the St. Lawrence Id. property. I am offering the above not to embarrass the present situation in any way for our Board is perfectly in accord with the use of the building now existing. It is advisable, however, that there be a clear understanding as to final title as the question might affect future plans of the Board for the reestablishment of mission work on the Island.

Sincerely yours,

J.H.C.

James H. Condit.

November 10, 1881.

Mr. W.T.Robb,
Bureau of Education,
Washington.

Dear Mr. Robb:

Replying to your favor of the 7th inst. I am sorry that I cannot comply with your request to furnish you with a list of the members of the Board of Education of the 23d. Lawrence Ind. property. I am writing the Board at present and will see if I can obtain the information for you. I am sorry that I cannot do so as the Board has no record of the names of the members of the Board of the 23d. Lawrence Ind. property.

Yours truly,

James H. Conklin.

P.S. I remember the circumstances very well indeed. I was present at the meeting of the Board of Education of the 23d. Lawrence Ind. property, when the Board decided to purchase the property for the purpose of building a school house thereon. I am sure that the Board has no record of the names of the members of the Board of the 23d. Lawrence Ind. property.

"Our records show that on May 25th,1881, the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, acting through the Board of Education, decided to purchase the property for the purpose of building a school house thereon. I am sure that the Board has no record of the names of the members of the Board of the 23d. Lawrence Ind."

I remember the circumstances very well indeed. I was present at the meeting of the Board of Education of the 23d. Lawrence Ind. property, when the Board decided to purchase the property for the purpose of building a school house thereon. I am sure that the Board has no record of the names of the members of the Board of the 23d. Lawrence Ind. property.

Yours truly,

James H. Conklin.